

## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton**  
**on Saturday 20 February 2021 commencing at 11:30am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** G. Annan

**Councillors:** E. Williamson, C. Sherrard, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, A. Kerr, N. Juby, W. Howard.

**Staff:** B. Wilson, A. Daniel.

**Visitors:** P. Hardy (DOC).

**1. APOLOGIES:**

S. Smith, G. Avery, D. Klee, C. Robertson J. Dyer, M. Davis, N. Juby (for lateness).

It was moved;

**that apologies be accepted.**

**Cocks/Sherrard - CARRIED**

**2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:**

None declared.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020:**

It was agreed that the motion regarding the Northern Special Shelduck Season should refer to 2022.

It was moved;

**that the limit for the 2022 special season north of the Auckland Harbour bridge be increased to 15 per day.**

**Shaw/Sherrard - CARRIED**

Mr Dyer proposed amendment was tabled. It was agreed that Mr Dyer's comments regarding the Aka Aka wetland had occurred later in the meeting and that no amendment was required to the minutes.

Councillor Cocks advised that a meeting of Aka Aka pond-holders should be called with the objective of getting them organised as a group/club. At a later date the pond-holders could consider whether they would become an incorporated society. A date should be

set for the pond-holders to meet outside of and preferably before the start of the game season.

It was moved;

**that the minutes of the previous meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Cocks/Sherrard - CARRIED**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

The Chairman reported on his recent visit to the Lake Pupuke Quarry which he considered to be an ideal spot for releasing catchable size trout.

Councillors discussed potential sponsorship for the trout releases such as charitable grants.

It was moved;

**that staff investigate the options for sponsorship of the Lake Pupuke trout releases.**

**Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED**

Councillor Juby joined the meeting at 11.11am.

**5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter from Mr Gary Fraser, Chairman of the Blythen Wetland Society Incorporated was tabled. Mr Frasier reported on the successful predator programme carried out on the Blythen Wetland by members and enquired of Council whether the surrounding wetlands were undertaking similar predator control programmes. The members felt that while they were making good progress within their wetland it was only creating a void for predators to enter from neighbouring properties.

Councillor Cocks noted that Council had no control over those surrounding wetlands that were not owned by Council. A successful predator control programme was being carried out on Council's Dean Wetland. Mr Wilson reminded Councillors that Council had objected to the rezoning of the adjacent Singer Wetland to residential under the proposed Waikato District Plan. Councillor Cocks emphasised the value of this land in allowing for integrated management of the lower Mangatawhiri Wetland.

A letter was tabled from Mike O'Donnell, Secretary of the Upper Piako Wetland Management Association, observing that the last duck breeding season had been poor which had contributed to a low duck population. They recommended that the limits for the 2021 game season should be reduced to 6 ducks per day after the first week of the season.

Councillors discussed whether it was feasible to make changes to the game regulations this close to the season start. It was noted that the season had been delayed last year due to Covid, but that was exceptional circumstances. It would usually be extremely difficult to implement changes after January. Mr Wilson summarised the current regulation policy which was that Council set the regulations on a 3-year cycle with the exception that changes could be made subject to any material extraneous circumstances that might occur during that period. The draft regulations with recommendations were sent to the Minister of Conservation by the end of January, the regulation booklets were printed in February, and the regulations published by Gazette Notice soon after.

Councillors also agreed that the proposed change would have little impact on harvest based on Mr Klee's 2019 report on the impact of game regulations on harvest.

Councillor Sherrard conjectured whether the late season in 2020 had impacted on Mallard breeding.

It was agreed that staff should prepare a comprehensive report on the Mallard population and harvest regulations for the new council.

## **6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

Councillors Sherrard, Annan and Shaw reported on the banding programme in their areas. It was noted that the total count would be below the annual target.

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson updated on the botulism outbreaks, stating that to date there was no evidence of a widespread outbreak but it was still early days. The Hauraki drought response group appeared to be working well with regular meetings and excellent coordination between agencies.

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson replied that he did not know the outcome of the recent Lake Waikare Section 128 Review Liaison Group meeting, but he would ask Mr Klee to update Councillors at the next meeting.

### **Financial Report**

Mr Wilson reported on the recent burglaries at the office and the resulting damage to doors and a window. An insurance claim for some \$12,000 had been lodged. Security cameras had been installed. Councillors supported options including security lights and lockable poles/bollards. Mr Wilson noted that the current monitored alarm was loud and had scared the intruders away before anything was taken.

Mr Wilson stated that the budget for the current financial year was projected to be \$100,000 but due to stronger than expected fish licence sales the deficit was projected to be \$50,000.

It was moved;

**that the Chief Executive's bi-monthly report and financial statement be accepted.**

**Cocks/Kerr - CARRIED**

The meeting rose for lunch at 12.45pm and resumed at 1:20pm.

## **7. FISH & GAME – RESOURCE ALLOCATION PROJECT:**

Councillors viewed the report as a PowerPoint presentation and considered Mr Wilson's written comments. Councillors expressed their concerns that:

- The report did not address the issues raised in the terms of reference.
- The analysis was based on total expenditure rather than core budgets.
- The report recommended that the financial needs of a region is the level of "activity" rather than licence sales. There were disadvantages with this approach, especially changing the incentive from licence sales to increasing activity.
- The concept of a flexible factor (10%) was impractical.
- The recommendations were unnecessarily complex.
- Anglers would be disadvantaged in the Auckland/Waikato Region due to the way that activity was measured.
- The recommendations would lead towards centralisation rather than co-operation between regions.

Councillors expressed their support for the peer review system of the national and regional budgets to be reinstated. It was also recommended that there should be a minimum budget set for the smaller regions.

It was also noted that the report did not address the R3 programme for increasing fish licence sales.

It was moved;

**that the NZ Council is informed of Council's concerns with the Resource Allocation Report.**

**Sherrard/Williamson - CARRIED**

## **8. GUIDING ON PUBLIC LAND:**

Councillors Juby's report was tabled and discussed by Councillors.

It was moved;

**That Ms Davis be asked to comment on the questions raised in the Juby report.**

**Juby/Cocks - CARRIED**

**9. GAME BIRD GUIDES:**

The letter from Rainsford Grubb, NZC chair, on retention of the latent provisions for game bird guide's licencing was tabled.

It was moved;

**That Council supports the removal of the latent provisions for game bird licencing.**

**Williamson/Cocks – CARRIED**

**10. NZ COUNCIL MEETING OF 16<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021:**

Councillor Juby summarised the main points from the recent NZC meeting. He indicated that the report from the external ministerial review was unlikely to be available until mid-April. Until the review was available decisions could not be finalised on such issues as the appointment of a new CE and the elections.

**11. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FRESHWATER, UPDATE:**

Mr Wilson reported that Ms Davis's report had been completed the previous week and sent to the NZ Council. Councillor Juby informed councillors that the report had been well received with the NZC Chair, Rainsford Grubb, very appreciative of Ms Davies's efforts.

Mr Wilson agreed to distribute a copy of the reports to Councillors.

**12. SPORTS FISH AND GAME BIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN, UPDATE:**

Mr Wilson advised that the draft management plan had been sent to iwi groups, territorial authorities, and DOC for comments/submissions. The submission date was the end of April. The option to comment on the plan will also be advertised as a public notice in the NZ Herald and the Waikato Times.

Mr Wilson further advised that a hearing committee should be established to hear any oral submissions.

It was moved;

**that the Hearing Committee be comprised of the Executive Committee.**

**Sherrard/Kerr - CARRIED**

It was agreed that if a member of the Executive Committee was unavailable for the hearing then another Councillor would be appointed.

**13. WARD RANCH UPDATE:**

The letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 from the Minister of Conservation, Hon Kiritapu Allan, to the Chairman was tabled.

Mr Wilson advised that while DOC had finally agreed to the proposed discontinuance, by Council from the proceedings this still required ratification from Ward Ranch.

**14. OSH UPDATE**

Mr Wilson introduced his report noting that as previously mentioned the office renovations would now be more extensive due to the recent burglaries.

It was moved;

**that the OSH report for February 2021 be approved.**

**Shaw/Juby – CARRIED**

**15. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Councillor Shaw advised that the wire netting on the banding pens required replacing. He suggested that this could be carried out by volunteers and staff. Mr Wilson agreed to discuss how this would be implemented with staff.

Councillor Williamson requested an update on the situation regarding game preserves. Councillor Juby replied that the NZ Council had decided that all commercial preserves would be phased out by 2025 but they were still waiting for signoff by the minister.

Councillor Sherrard informed the meeting that the funeral for Murray Young would be held at 11am on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Kaipara Cruising Club, Helensville.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2:45pm.